

HAWAIIAN GAZETTE.

SEMI-WEEKLY.

ISSUED TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

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TUESDAY, MAY 13, 1896.

The expression "Khalifa" is likely to be used very frequently during the ensuing campaign in the Sudan. It is the same word as Caliph, which was applied especially to the four Arab rulers after Mohammed. When applied to others it takes the form given above, or, according to the Standard Dictionary, "Khalifah." It means an Arabic successor, and is applied to the present ruler in the Sudan as the "successor" of the Mahdi.

Rev. Mr. Garvin is the first Honolulu preacher whose audience has expressed its approval of telling points in a sermon by a more extensive demonstration than the "quiet rattle of church applause." Whatever the mistakes of the audience may have been, it can be truthfully said that Mr. Garvin does not preach to the galleries or seek notoriety from unusual demonstrations. We would suggest that in the future the Sunday audiences follow the advice of the good Southern preacher, who, when his audience got excited, quietly remarked, "Brethren, please please keep your feet on the floor."

on it. If this measure is rushed through at the last minute, the Representatives—unless they are infallible—will find that there are numerous items which should be given more investigation than the limited time will allow, provided the members intend to be fully conversant with what they are voting on. The Representatives have some pet measures which they hope to get through the Senate, but we sincerely hope they will not pursue a policy that will tend to block legislation and wind up the session with a dead lock.

The legislators seem to be rather thin-skinned. A criticism of anything done in either house calls forth a squel. After all, legislators are but men. They are apt, in other countries—and the press of those countries does not hesitate to say so—to make a somewhat holy show of themselves. Of course we would not for an instant say that in this country either house could make a holy show of itself. Oh, no. They are, in the words of Mark Antony, "all honorable men." They work for the good of the community, not for themselves. They have, none of them, any private axes to grind, no bond-holders to protect, no log-rolling to be done. If any paper has criticized them it is really a shame. When you have the assembled and choice wisdom of the country working day and night for you, it is outrageous either to criticize or to poke fun at those brilliant lights that compose the aggregate mass.

Congressman Hall of Missouri, who recently distinguished himself by throwing ink bottles at a fellow Congressman on account of differences that arose in the committee room, has shown that he is not without his good points, notwithstanding his fiery temper. Mr. Hall has been known as a sound money man, and as his chances for re-election on a sound money platform seemed decidedly small, his political manager, who advocated a leaning to free silver, telegraphed him: "You can state that, although these are not your views, you yield to the wishes of your constituents." The Congressman, in a reply that was more pointed than elegant, stated that he would accept a sound money platform or nothing. If he is defeated, Mr. Hall will at least go on record as among the few American Congressmen who will not change his principles to suit the political occasion. The United States can stand a good many fiery-tempered Congressmen if they follow the Missouri man's example when a question of principle is involved.

Members of the House of Representatives are apparently inclined to be a bit touchy. They complain of severe criticism by the newspapers. We would suggest to the members of the lower house that virtue is its own reward. If the responsibility for a large amount of important work being held over until the last days of the session should rest on other shoulders than the Representatives' the public will be quick to find it out. There is nothing gained by whining. The current receipts appropriation bill has been in the House long enough to have some work done. The White Star steamer Doric, says an English paper, made the voyage from Liverpool to San Francisco direct, via the Straits of Magellan, in forty-one days. The distance is 13,500 miles, which would make her speed nearly fourteen knots throughout the trip. This speed kept up steadily during this long voyage is unprecedented. We have by no means reached the limit of speed

yet. The vessel of the future will go fully twenty knots at a stretch, and we shall think the Doric an old tub. Then there are the possibilities of aerial navigation—plenty of show yet for speed. Still, the Doric voyage is phenomenal.

Some remarks upon the waste at the approaching coronation of the Czar of Russia appeared in these columns a few days ago. Recent papers speak of the following bit of extravagance: Forty of the high court functionaries are to walk before the Czar to the Cathedral, each clad in the national dress of the forty provinces of the Empire. But the national dress in this instance is not to be of the ordinary materials, but of costly silk and velvet, heavily embroidered in gold. It is calculated that each dress will cost about \$5,000, or \$200,000 in all. And this in a country where some of the people work for little more than ten cents a day. Verily, Imperial pomp is not of advantage to a nation. It is opera bouffe and spectacular plays in real life. By the way, such sentiments expressed in the land of the Czar would result in the editor of this paper being picked off post haste to Siberia. But is it any wonder, even from this point of view, that there are nihilists in Russia? Of course there is much wrong and oppression, but such a lavish waste of money is a much greater object lesson to the poorer classes.

DECLINE OF "BOSSISM."

Although political "bossism" still holds a prominent place in American politics, there occasionally crops up an incident showing the growing aversion of the intelligent voter to the manipulations of machine politicians. A recent evidence of the gradual change in public sentiment is given in the action of Governor Morton of New York in connection with the Ralnes liquor law. The law brings the liquor business under the supervision of a State department, instead of leaving the administration of the law to the different municipalities. It devolved upon Governor Morton to decide whether the appointments under the new law were subject to the civil service regulations of the State. Mr. Morton decided that they were not, thereby catering to Moss Platt and practically killing the feature of the measure which was passed with the idea of diminishing the strength of the liquor power in politics.

Governor Morton has made friends with the politicians, but he has put a damper on any aspirations he may have had for the presidential nomination. Condemnation of his course has come from every hand. Even the politicians can see that they have led the Governor to his political doom. They realize full well that the people of the United States will not vote for a man who has shown himself to be given over body and soul to the ward heeler and vote buyer. It will be a good many years before the "boss" is eliminated from American politics, but the independent voters are steadily on the increase, and the man who hopes for the support of thoughtful, intelligent voters has come to know that he must make some pretension of being able to act upon principle and not upon the dictates of a well organized ring of schemers.

MISSIONARY WORK CURTAILED.

Probably among no public organizations has the financial depression in the United States during the past few years been more seriously felt than the missionary societies. Every society of this character is almost entirely dependent upon the benevolence of private individuals, and unfortunately as the hard times have cut down incomes, the missionary workers have been the first to feel it. Many men who can meet their obligations and keep up their contributions in other directions have felt that the missionary worker could get along without the money sent in from one source or another, and as a result many of the societies find themselves in decidedly straitened circumstances.

Heavy debts have been incurred, and the officers find that even a religious society is liable to be pressed by creditors. The lack of funds has been sorely felt by the workers in the field, and in more than one instance the advisability of abandoning certain fields has been seriously considered. The Baptist societies were obliged to change their plans in connection with the usual anniversary exercises on account of the difficulty of obtaining funds to meet the necessary running expenses. The Presbyterians have made a strong appeal to the churches for assistance, and the American Board of Foreign Missions, after cutting its appropriation for the current year to \$30,000, finds itself in a most trying situation.

The most unfortunate feature about this state of affairs is that some of the societies have been forced to recall missionaries and practically abandon work that has been carried on with fair success. It is hard enough to be obliged to have progress stopped in different countries, but to be forced to abandon a people who have had simply a glimpse of the good work wrought by the Gos-

pel, leaving the faithful few to fight the battle of Christianity against heathenism without the assistance of a guiding and protecting hand, is to give missionary work a set-back from which it will not readily recover.

The religious journals have attempted to impress upon their readers the necessity of continued liberality, but thus far they do not appear to have reached the pocketbooks of those able to give.

It is sad indeed to have this practical demonstration of the truth that when it becomes necessary for private individuals to curtail expenses the missionary is one of the first to feel it. It shows that too many church people desert their God to worship the golden calf of private comfort.

We doubt if this condition that faces the American societies could ever obtain in this country, at least during the present generation. The personal privations of the early missionaries and the good work done by them is too fresh in the minds of the people here who have money to contribute for such a marked desertion of the missionary to take place.

KULA, MAUI.

Senator Baldwin, in his remarks upon the necessity of a better road into the Kula region of Maui, painted a by no means too brilliant picture of that district. Eight years ago a few scattered houses, which could hardly be noticed, and hardly any cultivation, were the non-distinguishing features of the district. Today there is a continuous stretch of cultivation along the mountain side about three miles wide and several miles long, extending from Kaupulu to the borders of Ulupalakaa. In this region are raised corn, potatoes, beans, fruit and hay. It is also a great place for pigs, the latter being fed on corn and the fruit of the prickly pear, which abounds in the portion below the corn and potato belt. The amount of freight going from this region is well known by those who have seen the boat load after boat load taken to the Kinau at Makana on both her up and her down trips—for the produce is sent as much to Kila and the Kohala ports as it is to Honolulu. A large quantity also finds its way to market via Kahuku.

The population of this district consists chiefly of Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese and a sprinkling of Germans and Norwegians. They are a hard-working, industrious population, and are bringing up healthy and industrious children.

Not only are the road facilities not sufficient for the district, but the school facilities are none too good. At Kaupulu there is an overcrowded school of over 100, which has only accommodations for some seventy-five or so, and there are at least fifty children in the vicinity who cannot be taken into school at all. There is also serious lack of school accommodations at Keokes, another growing center.

The needs of such places should have the careful consideration of the Legislature. The inhabitants have no time for politics at present, as they are too busy engaged in cultivating their holdings and providing for the future, but the day will come when they will have men from among themselves who will be able to talk for them. The population which is quietly growing up in the Kula promises in time to be one of the most independent on the group—a free, wholesome, thrifty farming population, than which there can be none better. Each man works for himself and owns no man as master.

DR. PLAYFAIR AGAIN.

An American exchange says that when Mr. Gladstone heard of the verdict against Dr. Playfair he sent a letter of condolence to the doctor, expressing continued confidence in him, and saying: "You do not seem to have done more or less than your duty." This seems to be a case where the Grand Old Man allowed friendship to run away with his better judgment. It is strange indeed that a man of Gladstone's prominence should put himself on record as in sympathy with one who dealt lightly with the good name of a woman. If more men, and possibly women, could be put through the same mill as Dr. Playfair, the world would be better and society freer from scandal. The people of the Southern States have come as near handling this problem successfully as any people on the globe. The man who casts a slur upon the good name of a woman and has no more proof to offer than that he has heard so and so, makes his statements at the risk of his life. Consequently men and women select their words with greater care when discussing the private character of an individual.

On general principles we do not approve a state of society where pistols and bullets play a prominent part, but there are cases that the law cannot reach, and wrongs done by gossiping tongues come under this head. A sound pummeling is about the only thing that can reach a person given to rolling "choice bits" of gossip under his tongue.

the man who will not risk his life, if necessary, to protect the good name of a woman isn't fit to live. On the other hand, the individual who finds occasional amusement in spreading questionable stories about this or that woman can be taught a lesson only by personal treatment.

In dealing with children, a good spanking is often times a better moral agent than all the arguments that can be thought out. After all, some men are only boys grown old, and the moral agents have to be selected accordingly.

THE REGISTRATION ACT.

Some of the kind friends of this paper have seen fit to take our remarks upon the Registration law as an attack upon the law as a whole. Such an interpretation is to be expected from the kind friends to whom we refer. This paper has always supported the Registration law, and will continue to support it until a fair trial has been given or a better method of attaining the same object is evolved. We do not, however, approve of the general application of the thumb mark, a feature that can be partially eliminated without in any way destroying the beneficial features of universal registration. If, as one correspondent has suggested, a signature in plain English script is substituted for the thumb mark, the law will be quite as effective, and citizens of the country, as well as those who come for a short stay, will accept it with much better grace.

Disagreeable though it may be to admit the fact, experience has shown that portions of our immigration law amount to very little without some auxiliary measure. The Registration law will help, if not completely, solve the problem, and it is proper for those interested in the character of the people who are to control the future destinies of this nation to render all the assistance possible in the administration of this new measure. It is also quite as important for the Minister of the Interior to exercise the vested authority to make such changes in the regulations as may seem necessary for the best interests of the country. Possibly the opposition to the thumb mark is the result of foolish sentiment, but if such is the case the foolish sentiment has such a strong hold upon a large number of intelligent people that it demands attention.

The law as it is enforced today stands a good chance of either becoming a dead letter or being voted out of existence by the next Legislature. The Minister of the Interior has it in his power to make such changes as will save the country from fierce criticism, and at the same time save the most effective and necessary features of the law. It is clearly evident that the men who can read and write English are not educated up to the thumb mark standard, and it is useless to attempt to enforce laws that are either above or below the standard of the community. The best plan of action for Minister King seems very plain.

MCKINLEY STILL LEADS.

Returns from the Republican State conventions continue to give evidence that Governor McKinley will be nominated for President on the first ballot at the St. Louis convention. In fact, one dispatch says that the McKinley managers are so sure of their success that they have made overtures to Reed to accept the nomination for Vice President. California has selected a solid McKinley delegation, with John D. Spreckels at the head. Illinois has not only instructed its delegates to vote for McKinley first, last and always, but also to be the first, if possible, to present his name to the National convention. Michigan is in the McKinley column with four delegates, and Indiana, ex-President Harrison's State, has followed the same course. At the Missouri convention, to be held on the 12th inst., all signs pointed to the endorsement of McKinley principles and McKinley for president. Governor Morton appears to be considering the advisability of withdrawing from the Presidential race, and consequently delegates instructed to vote for him are declaring for McKinley.

In a circular letter sent out May 10th, General Grosvenor of Ohio shows that 488 McKinley delegates have been elected in the various Republican conventions. He figures that seventy-two delegates remain to be elected, and of this he feels sure of fifty for McKinley. In closing the letter he says: "Add these to the 488 uncontested seats, and you will have 538 votes on the first ballot beyond all controversy."

While Grosvenor can be reckoned to place a McKinley version on the returns, if possible, it is notable that Quay, Manley and Platt, the political managers of the opposition combination, have very little to say in support of their pet candidates.

It is safe to say that all signs point to Wm. McKinley as the Republican standard bearer in the Presidential campaign of 1896, and only by one of those unaccountable freaks of nominat-

ing conventions, where a man never before heard of pops up and carries the day, can he be defeated.

INCOME TAX.

The income tax bill, which was to have been up for discussion in the House Friday, was held over to Monday. As has been earnestly urged in these columns, it is a measure in which every taxpayer in the country is directly interested. From information from the House, it is very evident that the majority of the members are in favor of the bill and that it will go through safely there. There will be amendments undoubtedly, but the main principle will go through. In the Senate, on the other hand, the bill is not looked upon with the same favor, and it is very probable that the country will see a distinct issue between the two bodies. The sympathies of the people are entirely with the House, and it does seem absurd that the ponderous big-wigs of the Senate should stand in the way of needed progress.

The passage of the income tax bill will at the next Legislature enable the Minister of Finance to relieve the poor man of some, if not of all, his direct taxes. We could do away with the poll tax, which is a relic of the dark ages, and we might lighten the road tax. On a rough calculation the income of this country, excluding laborers of all kinds and those having an income of six hundred dollars, is about \$20,000,000. A three per cent. income tax upon this would yield \$600,000, but a graduated income tax going up to five per cent. for residents and ten per cent. for absentees would bring in at least a couple of hundred thousand more, while with the English system followed of taxing incomes from property abroad a still greater increase might be made.

Last year the income from taxation was \$592,691.92. It is very plain that the income tax will yield far more than this if it is properly assessed and collected, and that there will be no difficulty when once the burden of taxation is placed on the shoulders fitted to bear it, in relieving the unjust or undue strain now put upon the laboring man. The income tax is the poor man's tax.

It is generally stated that the income tax bill which should come before the House today will be considerably amended by the committee's report, or rather we should say the committee's report will suggest amendments. The limit of exemption, it is said, will be \$2,000, and the tax to be at the rate of one per cent. The view taken by the committee, if our information be correct, is that it is but an experiment, and that even at this rate \$60,000 of additional revenue will be raised. The view is a fair one and may be correct. "Festina lente," make haste slowly, is one of the pithiest expressions of the many pithy expressions to be found in the poems of Horace; but one may make haste too slowly. The views of the committee are evidently based upon a calculation of sugar income of \$6,000,000. The estimate of the income from all sources in the Republic, made by this journal, is very much larger.

Even with a two thousand dollar exemption and a one per cent. rate, the revenue from the income tax will, according to calculation, considerably exceed the amount of \$60,000. But this paper sticks firmly to the six hundred dollar exemption and believes thoroughly in a progressive scale of taxation. On inquiry from several wealthy men it has been gathered that they have no objection to a progressive tax. This acquiescence may come from a conviction that the bill will never pass the Senate, and therefore a cheap form of popularity may be gained by favoring what these gentlemen feel convinced will never pass. It is preferable to think the contrary. Though we are blessed in these islands with a select coterie of tax dodgers, yet we are still more blessed in having a remarkable number of honest gentlemen who freely say that in the past they have not paid their proper quota of taxes, simply because the law did not exact them, but that they were perfectly willing and anxious to make laws which should affect themselves.

One warning we would give to the Legislators. It is an undoubted principle of income tax legislation that the lower the rate of tax the lower ought to be the limit of exemption. If we are to have as high a limit of exemption as two thousand dollars, then certainly the rate ought to be higher than one per cent. Another thing they should take notice of is that such a small revenue as \$60,000 from this tax is not going to enable the Minister of Finance to take off direct taxes from the two hundred dollars a year man. If it is the policy of this paper to advocate that just burdens should be laid on the shoulders able to bear them, so much the more is it its policy to see that the heavy rate of five dollars per annum, or two and a half per cent., should be taken off the shoulders of those who, receiving two hundred dollars per annum, and even less, have to pay that

exorbitant rate of taxes upon their tiny incomes.

However, it is to be hoped that the bill and its amendments will come up for discussion today, and that the public may know what the House really intend to do. The public do take very great interest in the matter. It is the most progressive financial step yet taken here, and though it meets with opposition, its supporters stand as about ten to one to its opponents.

Since writing the review of the British income tax which appeared in these columns May 13, attention has been called to an amendment to the Act passed July 31st, 1894. It does not affect the general provisions of the Act, but refers merely to the exemption and abatement. Up to that year exemption was allowed for \$750 and abatement for incomes not exceeding \$2,000. The new act raised the amount of exemption to \$800 and the amount where abatement was allowed to \$2,500, and in this form: the old rate of abatement for incomes of \$2,000 was \$600; under the new Act the full exemption is allowed, viz., \$800, so that an income of \$2,000 only pays on \$1,200. Incomes of \$2,500 pay on \$2,000, being allowed an abatement of \$500. Of course this raising of exemptions and abatements has been based on the principle dwelt on several times in these columns, viz., the higher the rate of tax the greater must be the exemptions and the abatements. It has been maintained that there is no such thing as progressive taxation in England. If this is not such progressive taxation, we should like to know what progressive taxation is. True, it is not carried as far as we should like to see it, not carried out to its logical conclusion, as it has been in Japan, but the germ is there, and most assuredly it will grow.

England is a conservative country as a rule, and progressive taxation of incomes naturally meets with much opposition, but the true theory of taxation allows it; it is indeed sanctioned by the very best thought. It appeals to common sense, but common sense, alas, has had very little to do with taxation in the past. True republicanism brings common sense to bear on such questions. Aristocracy of birth or wealth objects to bringing common sense to bear, and merely wishes to save itself burdens which it lays with an unparrying hand upon those least able to bear them. The mere crudity of taxation is the poll tax, which it is to be hoped will be wiped out from our tax laws within two years. The poll tax for the whole Islands amounts to \$45,580. An increase of receipts might very easily allow this tax to go, and a dollar might be taken from the school tax if it is found that the income tax be as remunerative as we think it will be.

If the income tax is properly managed it will, even at the ridiculously small rate which is proposed, prove far more remunerative than people think. It will bring one per cent. from more than the \$6,000,000 calculated upon.

It would be no bad plan for the Legislature to pass a short Act empowering the tax assessors to inquire into the amount of income of all persons. A separate column might be reserved in the tax books for this purpose. This would not be for the purpose of taxation now, but would afford a very valuable mass of material for forming estimates for the taxation of the future.

That the income tax bill will pass the House of Representatives is now assured. What fate it will meet in the Senate is quite another thing. The Representatives voice the wishes of the people. The Senate has voiced the wishes of those with the money bags. The House of Representatives has been very wise to keep the whip hand over subsidy bills till its voice can be heard in the Senate.

JOINS ST. ANDREW'S.

Ex-queen Liliuokalani Confirmed by Bishop Willis.

Ex-Queen Liliuokalani was baptized and confirmed by Bishop Willis in St. Andrew's Cathedral at 6:30 yesterday morning. The affair was a very quiet one and was witnessed by the sisters of St. Andrew's Priory alone. The font was beautifully decorated with masses of white flowers.

O. & O. S. S. Doric Arrives.

The O. & O. S. S. Doric, Smith commander, arrived in port at 6 p. m. yesterday after a very pleasant trip of about six days from San Francisco. This is the first trip of the Doric to this port and her record from San Francisco is a good one. In resemblance she is very much similar to the Coptic and Belgic. Her interior is beautifully finished and fitted up. The Doric was formerly of the White Star line, but has been refitted for service on the O. & O. S. S. line of steamers. She will leave for China and Japan at 4 p. m.

The bark Sonoma arrived late yesterday afternoon with a load of coal from Newcastle, N. S. W.